

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7383

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, LE

SUBJECT: NEW YORK STATE ANTI-BOYCOTT LANGUAGE

REF: STATE 271220

1. REGARDING IMPORT LETTERS OF CREDIT, EMBASSY HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING COPIES OF THE REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED BY THE BOYCOTT OFFICE. THESE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE:

A) QUOTE THE EXPORTERS' INVOICE SHOWING THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, DULY CERTIFIED BY THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND LEGALIZED BY THE LEBANESE MISSION OR ANY ARAB MISSION. ON THE CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN, SHOULD CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING UNDERTAKING: "WE UNDERTAKE NOT TO SHIP THE MERCHANDISE RELATIVE TO THIS INVOICE ON BOARD OF ISRAELI VESSELS OR ON VESSELS BLACKLISTED BY THE BOYCOTT OFFICE OF ARAB COUNTRIES CALLING AT ANY PORTS OF OCCUPIED PALESTINE." UNQUOTE

B) QUOTE INSURANCE POLICY SHOULD BEAR THE FOLLOWING

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ING CLAUSE: SELLERS CERTIFY THAT THEY ARE AWARE OF

THE LAWS IN FORCE IN LEBANON CONCERNING TRADE WITH
ISRAEL AND DECLARE TO CONFORM TO SUCH LAWS AND REGU-
LATIONS. UNQUOTE

2. REGARDING CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN, THESE ARE IN
CONFORMANCE WITH ARTICLE 3 OF THE LEBANESE DECREE OF
JANUARY 23, 1955 ESTABLISHING THE BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL.
THE TEXTS OF THIS DECREE WAS TRANSMITTED OT THE DEPART-
MENT UNDER COVER OF A-219 OF NOVEMBER 4, 1975.

3. IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT THE LEBANESE POLICY
IN IMPLEMENTING THE BOYCOTT APPEARS TO BE ONE BASED ON
AVOIDANCE OF ANY INDICATION OF ETHNIC OR RELIGIOUS
DISCRIMINATION. THUS WHEN, SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, THE
INTER INVESTMENT COMPANY REFUSED TO JOIN WITH A CERTAIN
BANK IN FLOATING A BOND ISSUE, THE HEAD OF THE BANK WENT
OUT OF HIS WAY TO STRESS THAT THIS WAS BASED ON THE FACT
THAT THE BANK WAS SUBJECT TO LEBANESE LAW AND THAT THE
BANK IN QUESTION WAS ON THE LEBANESE BOYCOTT LIST.
ADMITTEDLY, THE BANK IN QUESTION WAS OWNED BY JEWISH
INTERSTS, BUT THE INTER BANK REPRESENTATIVE STRESSED
THAT REFUSAL WAS NOT BASED ON A QUESTION OF RELIGION.
ANY BANK, REGARDLESS OF THE RELIGION OF THE OWNERS,
COULD NOT BE DEALT WITH IF IT WER ON THE BOYCOTT LIST.
INDEED, THE INTER BANK COMPANY HAD IN THE PAST
COLLABORATED WITH BANKS OWNED BY JEWISH INTERESTS
WHICH WERE NOT ON THE LIST. ADDING FURTHER STRENGTH
TO HIS ARGUMENT, THE INTER INVESTMENT REPRESENTATIVE
ALSO RECALLED THAT THERE ARE TWO LEBANESE COM-
MERCIAL BANKS OPERATING IN LEBANON THAT ARE CONTROLLED
BY (LEBANESE) JEWISH INTERESTS.
GODLEY

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